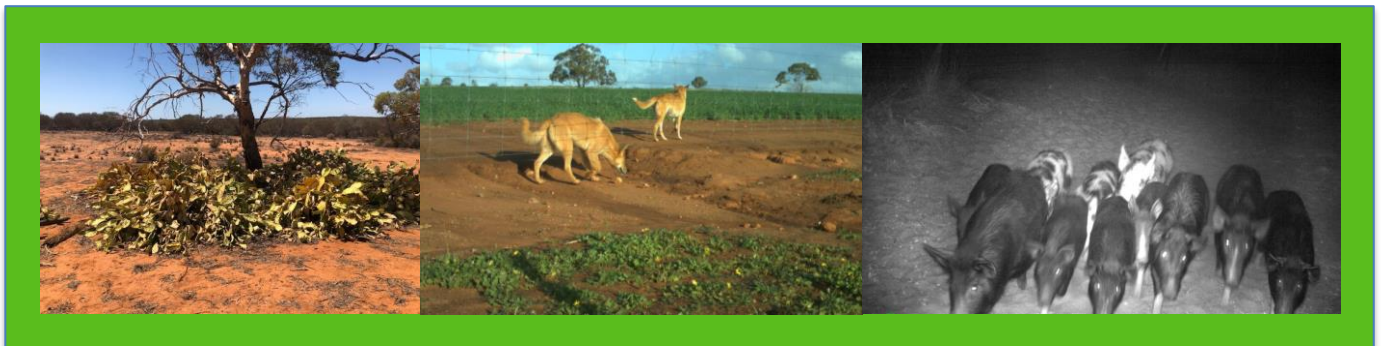




Northern Biosecurity Group Inc.

Annual Report



Opuntia stricta Cactus

~

Wild Dogs

~

Feral Pigs

AGM Wednesday, 22nd September 2021
Walkaway Tavern Padbury Road WALKAWAY

OUR OBJECTS and PURPOSES

- Initiate, promote and foster the control of Declared Pests in the Designated Area;
- Encourage landholders and other persons to adopt sound biosecurity practices throughout the Designated Area;
- Foster the sustainable development of the Designated Area;
- Encourage the control of pests other than Declared Pests in the Designated Area;
- Identify direct or indirect funding sources that can be made available for the development of the objects and purposes of the Association;
- Provide Members with a forum to exchange information, advice and assistance where appropriate; and
- Undertake any activity that the Board of Management shall from time to time determine to be in furtherance of the objects of the Association



2020-21 BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The NBG Constitution provides a Board of Management which currently consists of seven members. These members hold voluntary positions 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 three but no more than eight other members.

As at 30th June 2021 the Northern Biosecurity Group Inc Board of Management consists of:

Member	Position	Date Appointed	Term Expiry
Jason Batten	Chairperson	October 2018	October 2021
Fiona Mann	Deputy Chairperson	October 2018	September 2023
Scott Bridgeman	Committee Member	October 2018	October 2021
*Penny Walker	Secretary/Treasurer	October 2018	September 2021
Jeremy Brooks	Committee Member	October 2018	October 2023
Steve Rowe	Committee Member	October 2018	October 2021
Darren Cobley	Committee Member	September 2020	September 2023
Llyod Cripps	Committee Member	September 2020	September 2023

**Non-Committee Member*

NBG Team

The NBG continue to contract a part-time Executive Officer, Marieke Jansen, who is responsible for the day to day management of the group including overseeing the implementation of the Operational Plan, on-ground management outcomes, Licensed Pest Management Technician (LPMT) coordination and delivery of community engagement activities.

The Association's financial management is overseen by the Board and the Executive Officer who is supported by the services of Penny Walker who also provides executive support to the Board at our General Board meetings.

Executive Officer – Part Time

Person

Marieke Jansen - Non Committee



0427 898 160



nbg_eo@outlook.com



@nbg_eo



Northern Biosecurity Group

Licensed Pest Management Technicians:

The NBG contracts a number of LPMT's across our region that are assisting the group and land managers with wild dog and feral pig control on their properties. LPMT's also record stock attacks, dog sightings, trap/bait data and any other information as requested.

Their records help the group direct investment and provide some understanding of effectiveness of activities as set out in our Operational Plan.

- ❖ Animal Pest Management Services
- ❖ Ray Hughes
- ❖ Allan Straw
- ❖ Andrew O'Dwyer
- ❖ Wayne Heal



Bait Days

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Opuntoid Stricta Cactus

AGM AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

2. Meeting Administration

- 2.1 Record of Attendance
- 2.2 Apologies
- 2.3 Proxies
- 2.4 Disclosure of Interest

3. Agenda

- 3.1 Acceptance of Agenda

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Acceptance of Minutes from previous AGM
- 4.2 Business arising from previous minutes

5. Chairperson's Report

- 5.1 Mr Jason Batten to speak to his report.

6. Financial Report (Treasurer)

- 6.1 To receive and consider the Draft Financial Report, for period 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021
- 6.2 Approve an Auditor to prepare the audit report for the 2021-22 financial year
- 6.3 Membership Fees

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Inwards
- 7.2 Outwards

8 General Business

- 8.1 Membership Application Consideration
- 8.2 Executive Officer's Report

9 Election of Directors of Nominated Persons to Board

- 9.1 Five vacancies for Board of Management
- 9.2 Nominations received include:
 - 9.2.1 Steve Rowe
 - 9.2.2 Jason Batten
 - 9.2.3 Scott Bridgeman
 - 9.2.4 Mike Kerkmans
- 9.3 Nominate Board Secretary/Treasurer Contractor for a 12 month period

10 Date of Next Meeting

11 Close of meeting



Northern Biosecurity Group Inc.

Northern Biosecurity Group Inc. (NBG) Chairperson, Jason Batten, opened the meeting at 4.03pm and welcomes all in attendance to NBG's third AGM.

Attendees	Jason Batten Scott Bridgeman Marieke Jansen	Steve Rowe Fiona Mann Penny Walker
Guests	Mike Raykos DBCA Johannes Human DBCA Ray Hughes LPMT Kim Haywood DPIRD John Coetsee Janes Bennett	Nicole Batten Jason Stokes Darren Cobley John Grove David Lisle DPIRD Mike Jones DPIRD
Minutes Taken By	Penny Walker	
Apologies	Glen Reynolds Wayne Boys	Wayne Heal Jeremy Brooks
Proxys	Nil	

No conflict of interest declared

Agenda

Acceptance and confirmation of Agenda as emailed to members.

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Minutes

Draft Minutes of the meeting dated 11th October 2019 and emailed to all board members prior to the meeting and tabled.

MOTION ONE: Draft minutes of the previous AGM held 11th October 2019 to be accepted as a true and accurate record.

MOVED: Scott Bridgeman **SECONDED:** Fiona Mann

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Nil business arising from previous AGM minutes

Chairman's Report - as tabled and verbally spoken by Jason Batten

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Financial Report - Presented by Penny Walker as tabled

Financial Information currently being audited by AMD Chartered Accountants, to be presented at next General Meeting.

Operational Income	\$ 1,090.00	
NACC Grant funding	\$ 20,000.00	
DPIRD Grant funding	\$ 80,900.00	
Declared Pest Rate Account funds	\$272,720.90	
Interest	\$ 409.66	
Total Income Received	\$375,120.56	(excludes Unspent Grant funding \$165,127)
Admin/Governance	\$ 55,119.30	
Wild Dogs	\$132,988.47	
Feral Pigs	\$154,899.17	
Other Pest Animals	\$ 20,230.84	
Declared Plants	\$ 8,781.00	
Community Engagement	\$ 22,767.97	
Total expenses	\$394,786.75	

MOTION TWO: That the draft financial statements presented at the annual general meeting be accepted for the period 1/7/2019 to 30/06/2020.

MOVED: Steve Rowe **SECONDED:** Scott Bridgeman

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Recommendation that Financial Accounts for Fiscal Year 2020-21 to be audited by AMD Chartered Accountants, Geraldton.

MOTION THREE: AMD Chartered Accountants, Geraldton to be appointed as the auditor for the Northern Biosecurity Group Inc. for the fiscal year 2020 – 2021.

MOVED: Fiona Mann **SECONDED:** Scott Bridgeman

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Membership Fees

MOTION FOUR: Member fees to be set at nil for 2020-21 financial year.

MOVED: Fiona Mann

SECONDED: Steve Rowe

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Correspondence

Inwards – Nomination for Membership Forms from:

Stephen Mitchell

Ben Simkin

Craig Moran

Murray Simkin

James Bennett

Brendan Weir

Brady Green

Craig Mincherton

Mark Flannagan

Scott McGregor

Tim Critch

Darren Cobley

All proposed members as listed above to be approved full membership.

MOVED: Steve Rowe

SECONDED: Scott Bridgeman

Accepted unanimously by show of hands

Outwards – Nil

General Business

Executive Officer's Report

Marieke presented Executive Officer report for the past 12 months highlighting activities and results.

Refer to report attached

Board Nominations

There are five positions available on the Board and the Chair called for nominations to Board of Management

Three board members' terms have expired:

Fiona Mann – City of Greater Geraldton – Mullewa District

Glen Reynolds – Shire of Northampton

Jeremy Brooks – Shire of Chapman Valley

Four valid nominations were received by the Secretary including:

- **Lloyd Cripps** Nominated by Glen Reynolds **Accepted** All in Favour by show of hands
- **Darren Cobley** Nominated by Marieke Jansen **Accepted** All in Favour by show of hands
- **Fiona Mann** Nominated by Steve Rowe **Accepted** All in Favour by show of hands
- **Jeremy Brooks** Nominated by Jason Batten **Accepted** All in favour by show of hands

Director Terms

Director – 1 Year Term Remaining

Jason Batten
Steve Rowe
Scott Bridgeman

Director – 3 Year Term Remaining

Fiona Mann
Jeremy Brooks
Darren Cobley
Lloyd Cripps

CONFIRMATION OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR 2020-21

Jason Batten	Shire of Chapman Valley
Jeremy Brooks	Shire of Chapman Valley
Fiona Mann	City of Greater Geraldton – Mullewa District
Steve Rowe	City of Greater Geraldton – Mullewa District
Darren Cobley	City of Greater Geraldton
Scott Bridgeman	Shire of Northampton
Lloyd Cripps	Shire of Northampton

Next meeting Wednesday 22nd September 2021

Meeting Closed 4.26pm

Chairperson
22 / 09 /2021

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

22nd September 2021

This season has been very busy thanks to a cyclonic start by Cyclone Seroja, causing damage but also bringing rain to setup a great season and creating an environment for pests to thrive. Mice have given farmers a few headaches but with good baiting programs have been manageable.

Northern Biosecurity Group (NBG) continues to create awareness of biosecurity importance and works with landholders to create effective pest control. As a board we have focused on working out the pig and wild dog hotspots, then looking at the best control and funding opportunities for that area. Having board members from different shires has helped to work out these areas and continues to be a strength with our biosecurity group structure.

Thank you board members as meetings have been well attended. We have been using available technology in Zoom which has made working with our external partners easy to engage with, including Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development (DPIRD) and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (DBCA).

DPIRD have strived to get Recognised Biosecurity Groups to work together and share information with online forums and now more Perth based meetings since COVID-19 restrictions have eased. Either Marieke or myself have attended these, as we have needed to work with Government on the Biosecurity Model. It may not be perfect but with our efforts we make it work for landholders and stakeholders in our region.

NBG board governance has worked well this year, thanks go to Executive Officer (EO), Marieke Jansen and Secretary Penny Walker who work so well together, it makes our job enjoyable. Sadly, we are losing board member Fiona Mann due to business commitments. Fiona will be missed as she was our financial Nazi and was always making sure this was in order and has great knowledge of what is happening within the communities.

Thank you to all our stakeholders who support us and all our Licensed Pest Management Technicians who do the hard work on the ground. Employing local people who know the area and can connect with landholders is one of the major benefits of our structure. Making sure we continue to provide effective control on declared pests in our region

**JASON BATTEN
CHAIRPERSON**



TREASURER'S REPORT

Northern Biosecurity Group Inc.

AGM – Wednesday 22nd September 2021

Financial Statement 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021

Financial Summary for this period

Opening Bank Balance

Bendigo Working Account	\$ 35,688.06
Bendigo Savings Account	\$118,873.09
Bendigo Executive Officer Exp Acct	\$ 437.13
Total Opening Bank Balance	\$154,998.28

Income

Operational Income	\$ 16,180.28
NACC Grant funding	\$ 10,000.00
DPIRD Grant funding	\$180,511.43
Declared Pest Rate Account funds	\$181,234.00
Interest	\$ 185.96
Total Income Received	\$388,111.67 (excludes Unspent Grant funding adjustments)

Expenses

Admin/Governance	\$ 60,653.35
Wild Dogs	\$104,564.38
Feral Pigs	\$156,775.21
Other Pest Animals	\$ 18,237.27
Community Engagement	\$ 4,506.46
Total expenses	\$344,736.67

Balance of Bendigo Bank Accounts as at 30th June 2021

Working Account	\$ 19,572.04
Savings Account	\$169,035.93
Executive Officer Expenditure Account	\$ 1,249.28
Closing Bank Balance	\$189,857.25

Outstanding Payables

Dogs LPMT	\$ 12,157.00
Total Outstanding Payables	\$ 12,157.00

Outstanding Receivables \$0

The financial software used is MYOB, where all our financial reports are issued for every Board of Management meeting along with copies of the Bank Statements. At least two of the Board along with the Board Treasurer sign for all transactions to the account which is managed online. AMD Accountants Geraldton office oversee the lodgement of the BAS and end of year adjustments.

Our group have been audited annually since inception by AMD who are a registered company auditor, this is conducted in accordance with ASIC, Corporations Act and other relevant legislative requirements. They undertake the audit process providing independent, information risk management and objective assurance advice designed to add value and improve our operation while understanding the critical nature of our Board for effective governance.

Audited financials have not been received to date, they are being produced by AMD Chartered Accountants and to be motioned at the next Board of Management meeting if not prior.

Recommendation

That the draft financial reports as presented and subject to appropriate Accountant adjustments be adopted and approved by the board, and when the audited financials are received that they are circulated for final motion.

Penny Walker
Contract Board Treasurer

FUNDING

Funding Projects include:

Project Four ~ Community Engagement & Consultation ~ Total Funds \$33,000 ~ Funded By WA State Government

Project Six ~ Supporting Communities to Save MalleeFowl ~ Total Funds \$20,000 ~ Funded by Northern Agricultural Catchment Council

Project Seven ~ Declared Pest Account Funds ~ Total Funds \$292,795.80 ~ Funded by WA State Government

Project Eight ~ GPS Tracking Midwest Feral Pigs ~ Total Funds \$201,710 ~ Funded by DPIRD

Project Nine ~ WDAP LPMT Midwest 2020-21 ~ Total Funds \$65,000 ~ Funded by WA State Government

Project Ten ~ Declared Pest Account Funds ~ Total Funds \$362,468 ~ Funded by WA State Government

Project Eleven ~ Australian Wool Innovation Wild Dog, Feral Pig and Fox control training for the benefit of wool and sheep producers in Western Australia 2020-2022 ~ Total Funds \$38,571.43 ~ Funded by ~ WA State Government



Feral Pigs Trap

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2020 To June 2021

Income		
Operational Income		\$16,180.28
Grant Income		\$193,198.38
Declared Pest Account Funds		\$134,908.90
Total Income		\$344,287.56
Gross Profit		
		\$344,287.56
Expenses		
ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE		
Accounting/Bookkeeping Fees	\$5,236.58	
Audit	\$3,090.00	
Advertising & Marketing	\$901.82	
Board Meeting Expenses	\$447.18	
Board Directors Honorarium	\$4,363.63	
Board Directors Travel	\$3,682.80	
Contractor - EO	\$37,275.00	
Insurance Expenses		
Association Liability Insuranc	\$2,886.02	
Total Insurance Expenses	\$2,886.02	
Office Expenses	\$37.27	
Travel & Accom. Expenses	\$2,733.05	
Total ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE	\$60,653.35	
WILD DOGS		
DOGS - Baits	\$2,300.00	
DOGS- Chemicals	\$4,672.56	
DOGS - LPMT	\$92,910.00	
DOGS - Plant & Equipment	\$4,681.82	
Total WILD DOGS	\$104,564.38	
FERAL PIGS		
PIGS - Aerial Shoot	\$45,665.90	
PIGS - Baits	\$61.82	
PIGS - Chemical	\$18,564.32	
PIGS - LPMT	\$76,030.00	
PIGS - Other	\$89.73	
PIGS - Plant & Equipment	\$16,363.44	
Total FERAL PIGS	\$156,775.21	
OTHER PEST ANIMALS		
OTHER PESTS - Chemical	\$18,237.27	
Total OTHER PEST ANIMALS	\$18,237.27	
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT		
Workshops	\$4,506.46	
Total COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	\$4,506.46	
Total Expenses		\$344,736.67
Operating Profit		-\$449.11
Other Income		
Interest Income	\$185.96	
Total Other Income		\$185.96
Total Other Expenses		\$0.00
Net Profit/(Loss)		-\$263.15

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Balance Sheet

As of June 2021

Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Working Account 162862569	\$19,572.04	
Savings Account 162862619	\$169,035.93	
EO Account 162862585	\$1,249.28	
Total Bank Accounts		\$189,857.25
Total Current Assets		\$189,857.25
Total Assets		\$189,857.25
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$1,541.65	
GST Paid	-\$14,528.77	
ATO Intergrated Account	\$2,204.00	
Total GST Liabilities		-\$10,783.12
Other Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	\$12,157.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities		\$12,157.00
Unspent Grants	\$141,660.54	
Unspent Pest Account Funds	\$46,325.10	
Total Current Liabilities		\$189,359.52
Total Liabilities		\$189,359.52
Net Assets		\$497.73
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$760.88	
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	-\$263.15	
Total Equity		\$497.73

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Created: 22/08/2021 12:44 PM

Northern Biosecurity Group Inc

P O Box 383

Northampton WA 6535

ABN: 17 934 046 266

Email: missmoneypennybook@bigpond.com

Payables Reconciliation [Detail]

As of 30/06/2021

ID No.	Date	Total Due	0 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	90+
Animal Pest Management Services						
*None						
00054243	30/06/2021	\$10,032.00	\$10,032.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total:	\$10,032.00	\$10,032.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ray J Hughes						
*None						
00054245	05/04/2021	\$2,125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,125.00	\$0.00
	Total:	\$2,125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,125.00	\$0.00
	Grand Total:	\$12,157.00	\$10,032.00	\$0.00	\$2,125.00	\$0.00
	Ageing Percent:		82.5%	0.0%	17.5%	0.0%
	Payables Account:	\$12,157.00				
	Out of Balance Amount:	\$0.00				

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

In the 2020-21 reporting period, we saw the continuation of our existing projects, including on-ground wild dog and feral pig control programs. After completing community consultation in the Greenough area to gain landholder support, the NBG received the Minister's approval to include the whole of the City of Greater Geraldton (CGG) as part of their described area and the Declared Pest Rate (DPR). At the AGM in September 2020 an extra board member was elected as the local representative for the Greenough area.

STAKEHOLDERS and PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past 12 months the NBG has strengthened its partnerships with the stakeholders across the region. All stakeholders are invited at the start of each Board of Management meeting to share experiences, provide feedback or ask any questions with regards to NBG's declared pest management programs.

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD) restructure meant a few staff changes and this was a bit confusing at times but we have a great working relationship with the local Biosecurity Officers and provide valuable technical support when requested. Dr. Peter Adams has spent a great amount of time in our region to help deliver on our State NRM project that is tracking GPS collared pigs. The servicing of the monitoring cameras are a time consuming exercise but has provided our group with valuable data on the effectiveness of our feral pig programs (and aerial culls) as well as photographic evidence of wild dogs moving into our region.

In response to feedback from a wide range of stakeholders and recommendations on the Auditor General Report "Managing the Impact of Plant and Animal Pests: Follow-up" DPIRD has initiated a process to strengthen the existing Declared Pest Rate (DPR) and Recognised Biosecurity Group model and then improve it for the benefit of landholders and ratepayers. Our RBG is looking forward with anticipation to seeing improvements made to the RBG model and showcase the great value for money the NBG delivers to landholders and State Government in our region.

The NBG would like to acknowledge the contributions and input from John Coetsee, Casper Human and Michael Raykos, Department of Biosecurity and Conservation Authority (DBCA) Mid-West Office, provided to our group and we are hoping to be able to maximise effective declared pest outcomes in and around DBCA managed lands.

NACC NRM has been a valuable partner in providing funds to continue our community rabbit baiting program for landholders with mallee fowl habitat areas.

Unfortunately, the WA Wild Dog Coordinator, funded through the Australia Wool Initiative, was abandoned without a lot of notice but funding was made available to assist with landholder training.

The RBG network is catching up regularly to share experiences to look for options to work together to improve governance and value add on activities that can be coordinated between regions (e.g. aerial baiting, workshop deliveries).

DECLARED PEST RATE (DPR)

As in the previous year, the NBG Declared Pest Rate was collected through an ad-valorem rate for properties (VENs) >100ha in the NBG region with a minimum payment of \$80.00 per property. This meant that landholders are contributing 0.025% in the dollar of the unimproved land value of their property.

An estimated \$181,234.50 would be raised into the Declared Pest Rate account, an increase of just over \$25,000 from 2019-20, this rise was raised over an increased number of landholders (included the CGG landholders). This meant that landholders were contributing 0.025 cents in the dollar of the unimproved land value of their property (compared to 0.030 cents in 2019-20). These funds were matched dollar for dollar by the Western Australian State Government to an estimated total value of \$362,488.

The funds collected through the DPR must only be used to implement the NBG's Operational Plan in the prescribed local government districts of Northampton, Chapman Valley and City of Greater Geraldton. At the end of June 2021, 96% of landholders had paid their DPR.

WILD DOG PROGRAM

During the 2020/21 Financial Year the NBG region saw an increase in wild dog activity. This was evident in the slight increase of reports of stock attacks and wild dog sightings by landholders and community members, particularly along the northern part of the Greenough River.

LPMT's collectively trapped a total of 38 dogs inside the State Barrier Fence. This was mainly out in the eastern pastoral areas of our region. The NBG received additional wild dog management funding through the Wild Dog Action Plan (WDAP). This fund allows the LPMT's to work on DBCA managed lands and pastoral leases.

Year	Stock attacks reported	Baits laid	LPMT days worked
2018/19	29	15,360	157
2019/20	35	11,730	223
2020/21	38	8,600	154

Table 1: NBG wild dog data

At our community baiting day free baits were distributed among landholders and our LPMT's were able to provide assistance with bait laying and storage options for landholders. Only landholders with a current Restricted Chemical Permit (RCP) are able to receive LPMT assistance in Wild Dog control.

NBG also participated in a Murdoch research project to quantify current bait manufacture and longevity of different baits across seven Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs). The project is hoping to identify best practice storage methods for meat, local-manufactured, and commercially available baits to increase effectiveness of baiting programs ie. what is the best time to bait, taking into account breeding cycles, weather patterns, prey availability, etc.

LPMT's also collected DNA samples from trapped dogs to provide to DPIRD for testing. This testing aims to give us information about its home range, where it may have originated from and its genetic background.

The NBG had budgeted for a total of 200 LPMT days. Not all allocated days were used. Any unspent money in our wild dog program has been allocated towards an aerial baiting program in August 2021

FERAL PIG PROGRAM

The NBG's feral pig program continued similar as in previous years. Landholders were encouraged to attend community baiting days. The feral pig LPMT contract was extended outside the State NRM Project to include a broader area of control. Great successes were achieved using the Matlock traps with a record number of 62 pigs trapped in one trapping event in the Chapman Valley area. Another aerial cull was organised. The aerial culling team has gained experienced over the past three years of flying and is more efficient in locating feral pig hotspots and culling pigs from the air. The group is hoping to continue the NBG aerial culling program to see a reduction in pigs and crop losses as a result of the feral pig control efforts.

Year	# properties	Hectares (based on property size)	hours flying	# feral pigs culled
2018	7	24,500	11	512
2019	23	52,500	34	1145
2020	73	est. 200,000	50	1261
2021	71	est. 130,000	38	1304
				TOTAL 4222

Table 2: Aerial culling data per event

Whilst anecdotal reports from landholders indicate an increase in feral pig numbers on their property, early feral pig monitoring data from DPIRD, in conjunction with the NBG within the core project area (Northampton) has shown a decrease of 81% from 2018-2019 Feral pig activity, and a further 76% from 2019 to 2020. This has been attributed to coordinated trapping and baiting efforts conducted by landholders and LPMT's throughout the year in addition to the NBG's aerial culling program.

More and diverse monitoring is needed to measure and evaluate outcomes from our control activities in addition to the feral pig numbers removed from the landscape. There is a lot of power in having and using the right data to inform management programs. The GPS tracking collar project will contribute valuable data on feral pig movements and range as well as the thermal drone survey that was conducted in June 2021, this was funded by DPIRD, to estimate feral pig density before and after control events. The three RBG's are collaborating and co-investing in a new feral pig and wild dog camera surveillance project. Automated image analysis of camera footage and facial recognition will assist with understanding whether the recovery in pig populations is due to newly established populations or an increase in population size due to result of favourable seasonal conditions.

OPUNTIOID CACTI (PRICKLY PEAR)

Our cactus program consisted of monitoring the existing known prickly pear cactus infestations across our region. WA has a relatively low number of known infestations. This presents a good opportunity to halt the spread and eradicate local infestations.

In the NBG's Cactus Management Plan we have listed the following objectives:

- ❖ Eradicate all C1 and C2 Opuntioid cacti within the NBG area;
- ❖ Eradicate all C3 Opuntioid cacti in natural areas within the NBG area to minimise risk to the bio-diversity and economic assets within the Northern Biosecurity Group designated area;
- ❖ To raise awareness and encourage landholders and community to report and use appropriate management strategies to control Opuntioid cactus

In November 2019 a significant effort was made to aim for the above objectives. Larger infestations identified, as a part of NBGs community engagement activities, and over the past 12 months follow up treatment was applied to these infestations. All infestations are listed with DPIRD and will include these sites in their monitoring programs. Biological control sites were still active and the group and landholders are committed to keeping a cactus monitoring program in place to try and control new infestations taking foothold in native bushland across our region.

OTHER PESTS

NACC NRM funds was used to distribute 2200 fox baits and contributed to 830 kilometres of OneShot rabbit bait to be mixed at the Yuna, Ajana and Mullewa community baiting days in February and March 2021. Landholders were also offered to use the services from the contract NBG LPMT to be laying the baits using their bait layer.

Western Australia Local Government Association (WALGA) asked the NBG to consider the Muir's corella, little corella, little corella (Northern) and Butler's corella to be included in our Operational Plan 20/21 as they are declared pests under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act). WALGA attended our March 2021 board meeting and explained the damage these birds are causing within the area. The group has agreed that Corellas are one of our major pests in our region but has not allocated any DPR funds in its Operational Plan. When WALGA has a proposal for coordinated and effective control in the future, NBG will support a corella project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The NBG have been proactive and continue to engage with the community about Declared Pests, related control activities and the incoming Declared Pest Rate.

A couple of community workshops were cancelled or have been postponed due to presenters not being able to travel as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns.

Tropical Cyclone Seroja impacted our region significantly with many farming properties and infrastructure damaged. All planned workshops in May and June were cancelled due to many people having to deal with clean-ups and power outages for long periods of time. The recovery after the cyclone has really shown that the NBG area has a great community spirit with much support for each other. It will take a long time for the community to rebuild and operate as normal but at least the 2021 growing season has been very positive for farmers in this region.

Below is an outline of key networking and community engagement activities undertaken by the Association between July 2020 and June 2021.

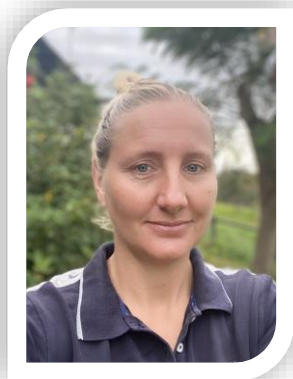
Month	Activity	Details
All year round	E-newsletter	
	NBG Website	www.nbg.org.au
July	Mullewa District Farming Initiative (MDFI) wildlife survey	MDFI member results to NBG Board and DBCA
	Attendance of Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA) Board Meeting in Morawa	27th July 2020
August	NBG Board Meeting & Stakeholder round table	12th August 2020
	Landcare Online Check in - Discussion Topic: Let's talk Biosecurity	31st August 2020
September	NARVIS NRM Strategy Workshop	3rd September 2020
	Declared Pest Rates Notice	Flyer and Notice posted to all NBG ratepayers explaining DPR and use of funds
	Local Farm Group Field Days	Small presentation of NBG activities (NAG, YFIG and MDFI)
	NARVIS NRM Strategy Workshop	3rd September 2020
	NBG AGM	16th September 2020
October	NBG Board Meeting & Stakeholder round table	14th October 2020
	NACC Feral Feast Presentation on NBG activities focus on invasive species	16th October 2020
November	Pastoral Gap Discussions with MRBA, CRBA and DPIRD	
December	RBG EO Workshop - RAS	8th December 2020
	NBG Board Meeting & Stakeholder round table	9th of December 2020
	Submission of DRAFT Operational Plan	31st December 2020
February	WA Feral Pig Advisory Group Meeting	19th of February
	Ajana Community Baiting Day - 5 landholders + Murdoch baiting trial	23d February 2021
	Central RBG Chairs Meeting	23rd February 2021
	Yuna Community Baiting Day - 14 landholders	24th February 2021
	Northampton Community Baiting Day - 6 landholders	25th of February 2021
	Mullewa Community Baiting Day - 9 landholders	26th of February
March	NBG Board Meeting & Stakeholder round table	12th of March
	NBG Aerial Feral Pig Cull	15-18th of March

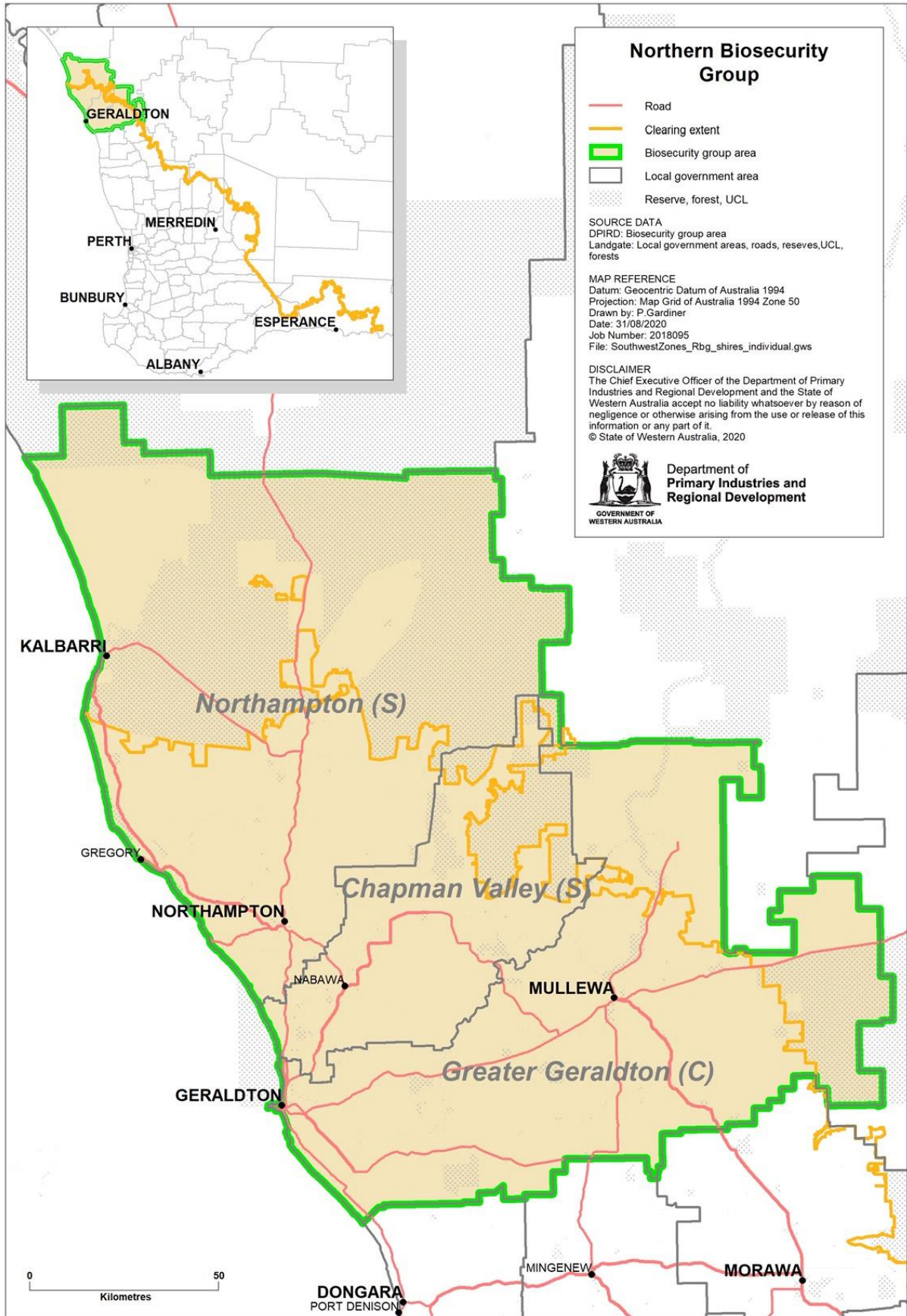
April	TC Seroja impacting NBG Region	12th of April
May	AVPM Virtual Conference Presentation of Feral Pig control and monitoring	20 th May 2021
	DPR 2021/22 Consultation Period	
June	NBG Board Meeting & Stakeholder round table	11th of June
	Online Forum - DPIRD Strengthening Communities	18th of June

Table 3: NBG Networking and Community Events



Marieke Jansen
Executive Officer





Northern Biosecurity Group